Fact Sheet

US Army Corps
of Engineers
Waterways Experiment Station

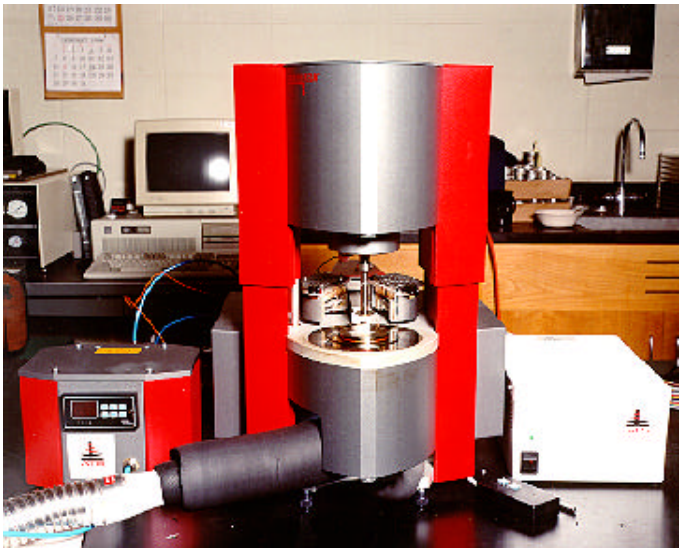
3 June 1997

Public Affairs Office 3909 Halls Ferry Road Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199 (601) 634-2504 http://www.wes.army.mil

SHRP Performance Grading of Asphalt Binders

Purpose: Determine the SHRP performance grade (PG) of asphalt binders.

Background: The SHRP (Strategic Highway Research Program) developed a system to specify asphalt binders for paving applications. The system establishes a temperature range appropriate for an asphalt dependent on the geographic location in which the binder is to be used. The local temperatures for a given geographic location determine the temperature range. Asphalt binders are tested using advanced techniques to determine if they meet the criteria for the area. This system is referred to as Aperformance grading@or SHRP PG. A PG 64-22 refers to a maximum upper pavement use temperature of 64EC and a minimum lower use temperature of -22EC for an asphalt material. The system involves very specialized equipment, testing routines, and specialized training for personnel operating the equipment.



Facts: The US Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station is fully equipped and staffed to determine SHRP PG=s for any asphalt binder. The SHRP PG system will eventually replace the conventional penetration and/or viscosity grading systems. At this time, a number of states have adopted the SHRP PG system and it is expected to be fully implemented in the continental US by the end of 1998. The PG system is vastly superior to the old methods of asphalt binder specification and is expected to have a significant impact on the performance and maintenance aspects of pavements.

Point of Contact: For more information regarding SHRP performance grading of asphalt binders, contact Dr. Kent Newman at (601)634-3858 or e-mail at newmanj@ex1.wes.army.mil. General information on the US Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station is available on the web site at http://www.wes.army.mil.